

Wednesday Evening Worship

October 21, 2026

Chosen and Sent

***Stand as able**

Prelude

Lighting of candles

Announcements, Joys & Concerns & Peace

***Call to Worship (from Psalm 99)**

⁵ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and fall down before God's footstool; God is the Holy One.

⁹ Proclaim the greatness of the Lord and worship upon God's holy hill; for the Lord our God is the Holy One.

Opening Hymn

Now It is Evening

TFWS #2187

1. Now it is evening: Lights of the city
bid us remember Christ is our light.
Many are lonely, who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring Christ is our light.
2. Now it is evening: Little ones sleeping
bid us remember Christ is our peace.
Some are neglected, who will be neighbor?
Where there is caring Christ is our peace.
3. Now it is evening: Food on the table
bids us remember Christ is our life.
Many are hungry, who will be neighbor?
Where there is sharing Christ is our life.
4. Now it is evening: Here in our meeting
may we remember Christ is our friend.
Some may be strangers, who will be neighbor?
Where there's a welcome Christ is our friend.

Let us pray,
God, as we gather in worship, open our hearts to your voice.
Nourish us with your truth and prepare us to share your love in the world. In Christ's name we pray. **Amen.**

Leviticus 19:1-2, 15-18

¹ The LORD spoke to Moses, saying: ² “Speak to all the congregation of the Israelites and say to them: You shall be holy, for I the LORD your God am holy.

¹⁵ “You shall not render an unjust judgment; you shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great: with justice you shall judge your neighbor. ¹⁶ You shall not go around as a slanderer among your people, and you shall not stand idly by when the blood of your neighbor is at stake: I am the LORD.

¹⁷ “You shall not hate in your heart anyone of your kin; you shall reprove your neighbor, or you will incur guilt yourself. ¹⁸ You shall not take vengeance or bear a grudge against any of your people, but you shall love your neighbor as yourself: I am the LORD.”

God's word for God's people.

Psalms 1

¹ Happy are they who have not walked in the counsel of the wicked, nor lingered in the way of sinners, nor sat in the seats of the scornful!

² **Their delight is in the law of the LORD, and they meditate on God's teaching day and night.**

³ They are like trees planted by streams of water, bearing fruit in due season, with leaves that do not wither; everything they do shall prosper.

⁴ **It is not so with the wicked; they are like chaff which the wind blows away.**

⁵ Therefore the wicked shall not stand upright when judgment comes, nor the sinner in the council of the righteous.

⁶ **For the LORD knows the way of the righteous, but the way of the wicked shall be destroyed.**

***Matthew 22:34-46**

³⁴ When the Pharisees heard that [Jesus] had silenced the Sadducees, they gathered together, ³⁵ and one of them, an expert in the law, asked him a question to test him. ³⁶ “Teacher, which commandment in the law is the greatest?” ³⁷ He said to him, “ ‘You shall love the Lord your God with all your heart and with all your soul and with all your mind.’ ³⁸ This is the greatest and first commandment. ³⁹ And a second is like it: ‘You shall love your neighbor as yourself.’ ⁴⁰ On these two commandments hang all the Law and the Prophets.”

The Gospel of the Lord.

Sermon

Hymn *The Church of Christ in Every Age* UMH #589 vs. 1, 3, 5

1. The church of Christ, in every age
beset by change, but Spirit-led,
must claim and test its heritage
and keep on rising from the dead.
3. Then let the servant church arise,
a caring church that longs to be
a partner in Christ's sacrifice,
and clothed in Christ's humanity.
5. We have no mission but to serve
in full obedience to our Lord,
to care for all, without reserve,
and spread his liberating word.

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Apostles' Creed

**I believe in God, the Father Almighty,
creator of heaven and earth.**

**I believe in Jesus Christ, his only Son, our Lord,
who was conceived by the Holy Spirit,
born of the Virgin Mary,
suffered under Pontius Pilate,**

**was crucified, died, and was buried;
he descended to the dead.
On the third day he rose again;
he ascended into heaven,
is seated at the right hand of the Father,
and will come again to judge the living and the dead.**

**I believe in the Holy Spirit,
the holy catholic church,
the communion of saints,
the forgiveness of sins,
the resurrection of the body,
and the life everlasting. Amen.**

Confession and Absolution

Because we often fall short and are not willing to love as Jesus loves, let us confess our sins and ask for forgiveness.

Holy God, even though we choose to follow Jesus we often go our own way. Jesus sends us out to care for others, but we put ourselves first. Forgive us for the good left undone and the wrong done. Help us to be faithful disciples on the Way.

In Christ, we are forgiven, justified, and transformed to carry on in the way of love and justice. Savor the good news of this pardon – your sins are forgiven +in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit. **Amen.**

Hymn *Lord Listen to your Children Praying* TFWs #2193

Lord, listen to your children praying,
Lord, send your Spirit in this place;
Lord, listen to you children praying,
send us love, send us power, send us grace.

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Pastoral Prayer

Thank you, Lord.

Thank you, Lord.

Thank you, Lord.

I just want to thank you, Lord.

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Gracious God, we return to you a portion of what you have first given us. May all that we offer be used to feed the hungry, welcome our neighbors, and spread your love and justice everywhere we go. Bless both the giver and the gift that they may bear fruit for your kingdom. **Amen.**

Words of Institution

On the night in which he gave himself up for us, Jesus took bread, gave thanks, broke the bread, gave it to his disciples, saying:

“Take, eat; this is my body which is given for you. Do this in remembrance of me.”

When the supper was over, he took the cup, gave thanks, and gave it to his disciples, saying: “Drink from this, all of you; this is my blood of the new covenant, poured out for you and for all for the forgiveness of sins. Do this, as often as you drink it, in remembrance of me.”

Lord, remember us in your kingdom, and teach us to pray.

Our Father, who art in heaven, hallowed be thy name, thy kingdom come, thy will be done, on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread; and forgive us our trespasses, as we forgive those who trespass against us; and lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. For thine is the kingdom, and the power, and the glory, forever and ever. Amen.

Invitation to the table

The table is set for you. Come and receive the bread of life and the cup of blessing given for you. **Amen.**

Holy Communion

Prayer after Communion

We give you thanks for feeding us at your table, Lord. May we become what we have received, the body of Christ, for the sake of the world. **Amen.**

Closing Hymn

Joyful, Joyful

UMH #89 vs. 1-3

1. Joyful, joyful, we adore thee, God of glory, Lord of love;
hearts unfold like flowers before thee, opening to the sun above.
Melt the clouds of sin and sadness; drive the dark of doubt away.
Giver of immortal gladness, fill us with the light of day!
2. All thy works with joy surround thee, earth and heaven reflect thy
rays, stars and angels sing around thee, center of unbroken praise.
Field and forest, vale and mountain, flowery meadow, flashing sea,
chanting bird and flowing fountain, call us to rejoice in thee.
3. Thou art giving and forgiving, ever blessing, ever blest,
wellspring of the joy of living, ocean depth of happy rest!
Thou our Father, Christ our brother, all who live in love are thine;
teach us how to love each other, lift us to the joy divine.

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Benediction

Go and do no harm. Do good and, as you go, +may the love of God
enfold you, the peace of Christ guide you, and the power of the Holy
Spirit sustain you, now and forever. **Amen.**

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